

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A distributed printing control apparatus comprising:

5 a data allocation module that divides print data, which is an object to be printed, by page and specifies information representing pages allocated to multiple printers; and

10 a data output control module that outputs the print data in a distributive manner to the multiple printers according to the information specified by said data allocation module, said distributed printing control apparatus being capable of printing multiple copies of the print data according to a requirement,

15 wherein said data allocation module arranges pages included in each copy in a sequence of the pages, divides all the pages of the multiple copies into the number of the multiple printers specified as destinations of distribution, and allocates respective divisions to the multiple printers, and

20 said data output control module carries out the distributive output of the print data to the multiple printers in a substantially parallel manner, said data output control module converting the print data of each page, sequentially from a head page of each division, to a format suitable for each printer specified as the destination of distribution and then performing each distributive output.

2. A distributed printing control apparatus in accordance with claim 1, said distributed printing control apparatus further comprising:

25 a virtual printer driver storage module that stores a virtual printer driver for specifying information on a virtual printer corresponding to the

multiple printers; and

an intermediate print data generation module that executes the virtual printer driver and thereby obtains intermediate print data, which is adequate for the virtual printer, from an application program that generates source data of the print data,

wherein the intermediate print data thus obtained is specified as the print data used in said data allocation module and said data output control module.

3. A distributed printing control apparatus comprising:

a data allocation module that divides print data, which is an object to be printed, by page and specifies information representing pages allocated to multiple printers;

a data output control module that outputs the print data in a distributive manner to the multiple printers according to the information specified by said data allocation module; and

a printer speed performance detection module that detects a performance on a printing speed of each of the multiple printers,

wherein said data allocation module specifies the pages allocated to the multiple printers according to the performance on the printing speed of each printer detected by said printer speed performance detection module.

4. A distributed printing control apparatus in accordance with claim 3, said distributed printing control apparatus further comprising:

a distribution information setting module that causes an input window to be displayed on a display device and sets various pieces of

information regarding distribution of the print data based on input data from an input device,

wherein said data allocation module specifies the pages allocated to the multiple printers, based on the various pieces of information set by said distribution information setting module, and

said distribution information setting module comprises a display control module that generates an illustrated image, which includes an arrangement of printing media and corresponds to the information specified by said data allocation module, based on the various pieces of information and causes the illustrated image to be displayed on said display device.

5. A distributed printing control apparatus comprising:

a data allocation module that divides print data, which is an object to be printed, by page and specifies information representing pages allocated to multiple printers; and

a data output control module that outputs the print data in a distributive manner to the multiple printers according to the information specified by said data allocation module,

wherein said data allocation module specifies number of pages to be allocated to each of the multiple printers, such that each specified set of pages are printed with an identical printer.

6. A distributed printing control apparatus in accordance with claim 5, said distributed printing control apparatus further comprising:

a printer speed performance detection module that detects a performance on a printing speed of each of the multiple printers,

wherein said data allocation module specifies the number of pages to be allocated to each printer, such that each specified set of pages are printed with an identical printer, in response to an externally input predetermined first command,

5 otherwise said data allocation module specifies the number of pages to be allocated to each printer according to the performance on the printing speed of each printer detected by said printer speed performance detection module.

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10 7. A distributed printing control apparatus in accordance with claim 6, wherein said data allocation module specifies the number of pages to be allocated to each printer, based on the condition that each specified set of pages are printed with an identical printer and according to the performance on the printing speed of each printer detected by said printer speed
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15 performance detection module, in response to both an externally input predetermined second command and the externally input predetermined first command.

8. A distributed printing control apparatus in accordance with any
20 one of claims 5 to 7, wherein said data allocation module comprises:

a unit setting module that changes over the specified set of pages between a unit of each copy and a unit of each set of identical pages, in response to an externally input predetermined third command.

25 9. A distributed printing control apparatus in accordance with any one of claims 5 to 8, said distributed printing control apparatus further

comprising:

a distribution information setting module that causes an input window to be displayed on a display device and sets various pieces of information regarding distribution of the print data based on input data from an input device,

wherein said data allocation module specifies the pages allocated to the multiple printers, based on the various pieces of information set by said distribution information setting module, and

said distribution information setting module comprises a display control module that generates an illustrated image, which includes an array of printing media and corresponds to the information specified by said data allocation module based on the various pieces of information and causes the illustrated image to be displayed on said display device.

10. A distributed printing control method, comprising the steps of:

(a) dividing print data, which is an object to be printed, by page and specifying information representing pages allocated to multiple printers; and

(b) outputting the print data in a distributive manner to the multiple printers according to the information specified in said step (a), said distributed printing control method being capable of printing multiple copies of the print data according to a requirement,

wherein said step (a) arranges pages included in each copy in a sequence of the pages, divides all the pages of the multiple copies into the number of the multiple printers specified as destinations of distribution, and allocates respective divisions to the multiple printers, and

said step (b) carries out the distributive output of the print data to the

multiple printers in a substantially parallel manner, said step (b) converting the print data of each page, sequentially from a head page of each division, to a format suitable for each printer specified as the destination of distribution and then performing each distributive output.

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11. A distributed printing control method that is capable of printing multiple copies of print data according to a requirement, said distributed printing control method comprising the steps of:

10 (a) dividing the print data, which is an object to be printed, by page and specifying information representing pages allocated to multiple printers;

(b) outputting the print data in a distributive manner to the multiple printers according to the information specified in said step (a); and

(c) detecting a performance on a printing speed of each of the multiple printers,

15 wherein said step (a) specifies the pages allocated to the multiple printers according to the performance on the printing speed of each printer detected in said step (c).

12. A distributed printing control method, comprising the steps of:

20 (a) dividing print data, which is an object to be printed, by page and specifying information representing pages allocated to multiple printers; and

(b) outputting the print data in a distributive manner to the multiple printers according to the information specified in said step (a),

25 wherein said step (a) specifies number of pages to be allocated to each of the multiple printers, such that each specified set of pages are printed with an identical printer.

13. A computer readable recording medium in which a computer program used in a distributed printing control apparatus is recorded, said computer program causing print data, which is an object to be printed, to be distributed to and printed with multiple printers, said computer program causing a computer to attain the functions of:

(a) dividing print data, which is an object to be printed, by page and specifying information representing pages allocated to multiple printers; and

(b) outputting the print data in a distributive manner to the multiple printers according to the information specified by said function (a),

wherein said function (a) arranges pages included in each copy in a sequence of the pages, divides all the pages of the multiple copies into the number of the multiple printers specified as destinations of distribution, and allocates respective divisions to the multiple printers, and

said function (b) carries out the distributive output of the print data to the multiple printers in a substantially parallel manner, said function (b) converting the print data of each page, sequentially from a head page of each division, to a format suitable for each printer specified as the destination of distribution and then performing each distributive output.

14. A computer readable recording medium in accordance with claim 13, wherein said computer program further causes the computer to attain the functions of:

(c) providing in advance in a storage device a virtual printer driver for specifying information on a virtual printer corresponding to the multiple printers; and

(d) executing the virtual printer driver and thereby obtaining intermediate print data, which is adequate for the virtual printer, from an application program that generates source data of the print data,

the intermediate print data obtained by said function (d) being
5 specified as the print data used for said functions (a) and (b).

15. A computer readable recording medium in which a computer program used in a distributed printing control apparatus is recorded, said computer program causing print data, which is an object to be printed, to be
10 distributed to and printed with multiple printers, said computer program causing a computer to attain the functions of:

(a) dividing the print data, which is an object to be printed, by page and specifying information representing pages allocated to multiple printers;

(b) outputting the print data in a distributive manner to the multiple
15 printers according to the information specified by said function (a); and

(c) detecting a performance on a printing speed of each of the multiple printers,

wherein said function (a) specifies the pages allocated to the multiple printers according to the performance on the printing speed of each printer
20 detected by said function (c).

16. A computer readable recording medium in accordance with claim 15, wherein said computer program further causes the computer to attain the function of:

25 (d) causing an input window to be displayed on a display device and setting various pieces of information regarding distribution of the print data

based on input data from an input device,

said function (a) specifies the pages allocated to the multiple printers,
based on the various pieces of information set by said function (d), and

said function (d) comprises:

- 5 the function of generating an illustrated image, which includes an arrangement of printing media and corresponds to the information specified by said function (a), based on the various pieces of information and causing the illustrated image to be displayed on said display device.

- 10 17. A computer readable recording medium in which a computer program used in a distributed printing control apparatus is recorded, said computer program causing print data, which is an object to be printed, to be distributed to and printed with multiple printers, said computer program causing a computer to attain the functions of:

- 15 (a) dividing print data, which is an object to be printed, by page and specifying information representing pages allocated to multiple printers; and

(b) outputting the print data in a distributive manner to the multiple printers according to the information specified by said function (a),

- 20 wherein said function (a) specifies number of pages to be allocated to each of the multiple printers, such that each specified set of pages are printed with an identical printer.

- 25 18. A computer readable recording medium in accordance with claim 17, wherein said computer program further causes the computer to attain the function of:

(c) detecting a performance on a printing speed of each of the multiple

printers, and

said function (a) specifies the number of pages to be allocated to each printer, such that each specified set of pages are printed with an identical printer, in response to an externally input predetermined first command,

5 otherwise said function (a) specifying the number of pages to be allocated to each printer according to the performance on the printing speed of each printer detected by said function (c).

19. A computer readable recording medium in accordance with claim
10 18, wherein said function (a) specifies the number of pages to be allocated to each printer, based on the condition that each specified set of pages are printed with an identical printer and according to the performance on the printing speed of each printer detected by said function (c), in response to both
15 an externally input predetermined second command and the externally input predetermined first command.

20. A computer readable recording medium in accordance with any one of claims 17 to 19, wherein said function (a) comprises the function of:

changing over the specified set of pages between a unit of each copy
20 and a unit of each set of identical pages, in response to an externally input predetermined third command.

21. A computer readable recording medium in accordance with any one of claims 17 to 20, wherein said computer program further causes the
25 computer to attain the function of:

(d) causing an input window to be displayed on a display device and

setting various pieces of information regarding distribution of the print data based on input data from an input device,

said function (a) specifies the pages allocated to the multiple printers, based on the various pieces of information set by said function (d), and

5 said function (d) comprises:

the function of generating an illustrated image, which includes an arrangement of printing media and corresponds to the information specified by said function (a), based on the various pieces of information and causing the illustrated image to be displayed on said display device.

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22. A computer program used in a distributed printing control apparatus that causes print data, which is an object to be printed, to be distributed to and printed with multiple printers, said computer program causing a computer to attain the functions of:

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(a) dividing print data, which is an object to be printed, by page and specifying information representing pages allocated to multiple printers; and

(b) outputting the print data in a distributive manner to the multiple printers according to the information specified by said function (a),

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wherein said function (a) arranges pages included in each copy in a sequence of the pages, divides all the pages of the multiple copies into the number of the multiple printers specified as destinations of distribution, and allocates respective divisions to the multiple printers, and

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said function (b) carries out the distributive output of the print data to the multiple printers in a substantially parallel manner, said function (b) converting the print data of each page, sequentially from a head page of each division, to a format suitable for each printer specified as the destination of

distribution and then performing each distributive output.

23. A computer program used in a distributed printing control apparatus that causes print data, which is an object to be printed, to be distributed to and printed with multiple printers, said computer program causing a computer to attain the functions of:

- (a) dividing the print data, which is an object to be printed, by page and specifying information representing pages allocated to multiple printers;
- (b) outputting the print data in a distributive manner to the multiple printers according to the information specified by said function (a); and
- (c) detecting a performance on a printing speed of each of the multiple printers,

wherein said function (a) specifies the pages allocated to the multiple printers according to the performance on the printing speed of each printer detected by said function (c).

24. A computer program used in a distributed printing control apparatus that causes print data, which is an object to be printed, to be distributed to and printed with multiple printers, said computer program causing a computer to attain the functions of:

- (a) dividing print data, which is an object to be printed, by page and specifying information representing pages allocated to multiple printers; and
 - (b) outputting the print data in a distributive manner to the multiple printers according to the information specified by said function (a),
- wherein said function (a) specifies number of pages to be allocated to each of the multiple printers, such that each specified set of pages are printed

with an identical printer.

25. A distributed printing control apparatus that controls distributed printing and comprises: a printer specification module that specifies multiple printers as destinations of distribution; and a distributive output module that outputs print data, which is an object to be printed, to the multiple printers specified by said printer specification module in a distributive manner,

said distributed printing control apparatus further comprising:

a condition setting module that causes a data input box for setting a predetermined condition relating to a printing performance of each printer to be displayed on a display device, receives input data into the data input box from an input device, and sets the predetermined condition based on the input data;

a printer performance information collection module that collects performance information with regard to the predetermined condition from each of the multiple printers specified by said printer specification module; and

a data input restriction module that restricts the input data in the data input box according to the performance information of each printer collected by said printer performance information collection module.

26. A distributed printing control apparatus in accordance with claim 25, wherein said data input restriction module specifies a set of performance information, which includes all the performance information of the respective printers collected by said printer performance information collection module, and restricts the input data in the data input box within a range of the

specified set of performance information.

27. A distributed printing control apparatus in accordance with claim 25, wherein said data input restriction module specifies a set of common performance information, which is common to all the performance information of the respective printers collected by said printer performance information collection module, and restricts the input data in the data input box within a range of the specified set of common performance information.

28. A distributed printing control apparatus in accordance with claim 25, wherein said data input restriction module comprises:

a mode changeover module that selectively changes over a working mode between a first mode and a second mode, the first mode specifying a set of performance information, which includes all the performance information of the respective printers collected by said printer performance information collection module, and restricting the input data in the data input box within a range of the specified set of performance information, the second mode specifying a set of common performance information, which is common to all the performance information of the respective printers collected by said printer performance information collection module, and restricting the input data in the data input box within a range of the specified set of common performance information.

29. A distributed printing control apparatus in accordance with claim 28, wherein said mode changeover module comprises:

a module that displays a switch for the mode changeover on said

display device, receives input data for operating the switch from said input device, and gives an instruction to change over the working mode based on the input data.

5 30. A distributed printing control apparatus in accordance with any one of claims 25 to 29, wherein said condition setting module displays an option display box showing options possibly input in the data input box, together with the data input box, and sets one option selected among the options and specified from said input device as the predetermined condition,
10 and

 said data input restriction module prohibits at least part of the options included in the option display box from being specified from said input device, so as to restrict the input data in the data input box.

15 31. A distributed printing control apparatus in accordance with any one of claims 25 to 30, said distributed printing control apparatus further comprising:

 a group mapping module that maps a plurality of printers to each group,

20 wherein said printer specification module specifies the multiple printers by a unit of group mapped by said group mapping module.

 32. A distributed printing control apparatus in accordance with any one of claims 25 to 31, wherein said printer specification module comprises a
25 name display control module that displays names assigned to the specified multiple printers on said display device.

33. A distributed printing control apparatus in accordance with claim 32, wherein said printer specification module comprises an input control module that displays switches, which correspond to the respective printer names displayed by said name display control module and are operated to exclude the corresponding printers from the destinations of distribution, and receives operation data of the switches from said input device, and

said distributive output module comprises an output resource exclusion module that excludes a printer, which is determined that the corresponding switch has been operated based on the operation data received by said input control module, from an output resource of the print data.

34. A distributed printing control apparatus in accordance with any of claims 25 to 33, wherein said printer specification module comprises:

a priority order specification module that specifies an order of priority allocated to the specified multiple printers, and

said distributive output module carries out the distributive output by taking into account the order of priority specified by said priority order specification module.

35. A distributed printing control apparatus in accordance with claim 26, said distributed printing control apparatus further comprising:

a performance decision module that determines whether or not each of the multiple printers specified by said printer specification module has a printing performance represented by the predetermined condition set by said condition setting module,

wherein said distributive output module comprises an output resource exclusion module that excludes a printer, which has been determined by said performance decision module not to have the printing performance, from an output resource of the print data.

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36. A distributed printing control apparatus in accordance with claim 35, wherein said printer specification module comprises a name display control module that displays names of the specified multiple printers on said display device, and

10 said name display control module comprises a module that prohibits distinctive display of the name of the printer, which is excluded by said output resource exclusion module.

37. A distributed printing control apparatus in accordance with any one of claims 25 to 36, wherein said printer performance information collection module receives information regarding performances of the multiple printers from printer drivers provided for respective types of the multiple printers and collects the performance information with regard to the predetermined condition from the received information.

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38. A distributed printing control method that controls distributed printing and comprises the steps of:

- (a) specifying multiple printers as destinations of distribution;
- (b) outputting print data, which is an object to be printed, to the multiple printers specified in said step (a) in a distributive manner,
- (c) causing a data input box for setting a predetermined condition

relating to a printing performance of each printer to be displayed on a display device, receiving input data into the data input box from an input device, and setting the predetermined condition based on the input data;

5 (d) collecting performance information with regard to the predetermined condition from each of the multiple printers specified in said step (a); and

(e) restricting the input data in the data input box according to the performance information of each printer collected in said step (d).

10 39. A distributed printing control method in accordance with claim 38, wherein said step (e) specifies a set of performance information, which includes all the performance information of the respective printers collected in said step (d), and restricts the input data in the data input box within a range of the specified set of performance information.

15 40. A distributed printing control method in accordance with claim 38, wherein said step (e) specifies a set of common performance information, which is common to all the performance information of the respective printers collected in said step (d), and restricts the input data in the data input box within a range of the specified set of common performance information.

25 41. A distributed printing control method that specifies multiple printers as destinations of distribution and outputs print data, which is an object to be printed, to the specified multiple printers in a distributive manner, thus controlling distributed printing,

said distributed printing control method comprising steps

corresponding to the modules included in a distributed printing control apparatus in accordance with any one of claims 28 to 37.

42. A computer readable recording medium in which a computer
5 program for controlling distributed printing is recorded, said computer program causing a computer to attain the functions of:

(a) specifying multiple printers as destinations of distribution;

(b) outputting print data, which is an object to be printed, to the
multiple printers specified by said function (a) in a distributive manner,

10 (c) causing a data input box for setting a predetermined condition relating to a printing performance of each printer to be displayed on a display device, receiving input data into the data input box from an input device, and setting the predetermined condition based on the input data;

(d) collecting performance information with regard to the
15 predetermined condition from each of the multiple printers specified by said function (a); and

(e) restricting the input data in the data input box according to the performance information of each printer collected by said function (d).

20 43. A computer readable recording medium in accordance with claim 42, wherein said function (e) specifies a set of performance information, which includes all the performance information of the respective printers collected by said function (d), and restricts the input data in the data input box within a range of the specified set of performance information.

25 44. A computer readable recording medium in accordance with claim

42, wherein said function (e) specifies a set of common performance information, which is common to all the performance information of the respective printers collected by said function (d), and restricts the input data in the data input box within a range of the specified set of common performance information.

45. A computer readable recording medium in accordance with claim 42, wherein said function (e) comprises the function of:

(e-1) selectively changing over a working mode between a first mode and a second mode, the first mode specifying a set of performance information, which includes all the performance information of the respective printers collected by said function (d), and restricting the input data in the data input box within a range of the specified set of performance information, the second mode specifying a set of common performance information, which is common to all the performance information of the respective printers collected by said function (d), and restricting the input data in the data input box within a range of the specified set of common performance information.

46. A computer readable recording medium in accordance with claim 45, wherein said function (e-1) comprises the function of:

displaying a switch for the mode changeover on said display device, receiving input data for operating the switch from said input device, and giving an instruction to change over the working mode based on the input data.

47. A computer readable recording medium in accordance with any one

of claims 42 to 46, wherein said function (c) displays an option display box showing options possibly input in the data input box, together with the data input box, and sets one option selected among the options and specified from said input device as the predetermined condition, and

5 said function (e) prohibits at least part of the options included in the option display box from being specified from said input device, so as to restrict the input data in the data input box.

48. A computer readable recording medium in accordance with any one
10 of claims 42 to 47, wherein said computer program further causes the computer to attain the function of:

(f) mapping a plurality of printers to each group,

wherein said function (a) specifies the multiple printers by a unit of group mapped by said function (f).

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49. A computer readable recording medium in accordance with any one of claims 42 to 48, wherein said function (a) comprises the function of:

(a-1) displaying names assigned to the specified multiple printers on said display device.

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50. A computer readable recording medium in accordance with claim 49, wherein said function (a) comprises the function of:

(a-2) displaying switches, which correspond to the respective printer names displayed by said function (a-1) and are operated to exclude the
25 corresponding printers from the destinations of distribution, and receiving operation data of the switches from said input device, and

said function (b) comprises the function of:

excluding a printer, which is determined that the corresponding switch has been operated based on the operation data received by said function (a-2), from an output resource of the print data.

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51. A computer readable recording medium in accordance with any one of claims 42 to 50, wherein said function (a) comprises the function of:

(a-3) specifying an order of priority allocated to the specified multiple printers, and

10 said function (b) carries out the distributive output by taking into account the order of priority specified by said function (a-3).

52. A computer readable recording medium in accordance with claim 43, wherein said computer program further causes the computer to attain the
15 function of:

(g) determining whether or not each of the multiple printers specified by said printer specification function has a printing performance represented by the predetermined condition set by said function (c),

said function (b) comprises the function of:

20 excluding a printer, which has been determined by said function (g) not to have the printing performance, from an output resource of the print data.

53. A computer readable recording medium in accordance with claim
25 52, wherein said function (a) comprises the function of:

(h) displaying names of the specified multiple printers on said display

device, and

said function (h) comprises the function of:

prohibiting distinctive display of the name of the printer, which is excluded by said output resource exclusion function.

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54. A computer readable recording medium in accordance with any one of claims 42 to 53, wherein said function (d) receives information regarding performances of the multiple printers from printer drivers provided for respective types of the multiple printers and collects the performance information with regard to the predetermined condition from the received information.

55. A computer program that controls distributed printing by causing a computer to attain the functions of:

- 15 (a) specifying multiple printers as destinations of distribution;
- (b) outputting print data, which is an object to be printed, to the multiple printers specified by said function (a) in a distributive manner,
- (c) causing a data input box for setting a predetermined condition relating to a printing performance of each printer to be displayed on a display device, receiving input data into the data input box from an input device, and setting the predetermined condition based on the input data;
- 20 (d) collecting performance information with regard to the predetermined condition from each of the multiple printers specified by said function (a); and
- 25 (e) restricting the input data in the data input box according to the performance information of each printer collected by said function (d).

56. A distributed printing control apparatus , comprising:

a first setting module that specifies multiple printers as destinations of distribution;

5 a second setting module that sets paper information with regard to paper used for printing; and

a distribution control module that processes externally input print data based on the specification by said first setting module and the setting by said second setting module and outputs plural divisions of the print data,
10 which satisfy the paper information, to the multiple printers specified as the destinations of distribution,

said distributed printing control apparatus supplying the plural divisions of the print data output from said distribution control module to the multiple printers via printer drivers provided for the respective printers,

15 said distributed printing control apparatus further comprising:

an information input module that receives information with regard to an unprintable area included in a paper area in each of the multiple printers specified by said first setting module; and

a printable area computation module that computes a printable area
20 in the paper area, which is printable with any of the multiple printers, from the information of the respective printers received by said information input module,

wherein said distribution control module comprises:

an area fitting module that causes the plural divisions of the print
25 data to be fit to the printable area computed by said printable area computation module.

57. A distributed printing control apparatus in accordance with claim
56, wherein said area fitting module comprises a margin correction module
that corrects margins on each sheet of paper defined by the print data, based
5 on the printable area computed by said printable area computation module.

58. A distributed printing control apparatus in accordance with
either one of claims 56 and 57, wherein said information input module
receives the information from the printer drivers provided for the respective
10 printers.

59. A distributed printing control apparatus in accordance with any
one of claims 56 to 58, wherein the multiple printers are connected via a
computer network.

60. A distributed printing control method, comprising the steps of:
(a) specifying multiple printers as destinations of distribution;
(b) setting paper information with regard to paper used for printing;
and
20 (c) processing externally input print data based on the specification by
said step (a) and the setting by said step (b) and outputting plural divisions of
the print data, which satisfy the paper information, to the multiple printers
specified as the destinations of distribution,

said distributed printing control method supplying the plural divisions
25 of the print data output in said step (c) to the multiple printers via printer
drivers provided for the respective printers,

said distributed printing control method further comprising the steps of:

(d) receiving information with regard to an unprintable area included in a paper area in each of the multiple printers specified by said step (a); and

5 (e) computing a printable area in the paper area, which is printable with any of the multiple printers, from the information of the respective printers received in said step (d),

wherein said step (c) comprises the step of:

(c1) causing the plural divisions of the print data to be fit to the
10 printable area computed in said step (e).

61. A distributed printing control method in accordance with claim 60, wherein said step (c1) comprises the step of:

correcting margins on each sheet of paper defined by the print data,
15 based on the printable area computed in said step (e).

62. A distributed printing control method in accordance with either one of claims 60 and 61, wherein said step (b) receives the information from the printer drivers provided for the respective printers.

20 63. A computer readable recording medium in which a computer program is recorded, said computer program causing a computer to attain the functions of:

(a) specifying multiple printers as destinations of distribution;

25 (b) setting paper information with regard to paper used for printing;

and

(c) processing externally input print data based on the specification by said function (a) and the setting by said function (b) and outputting plural divisions of the print data, which satisfy the paper information, to the multiple printers specified as the destinations of distribution,

5 wherein the plural divisions of the print data output by said function (c) are supplied to the multiple printers via printer drivers provided for the respective printers,

 said computer program further causing the computer to attain the functions of:

10 (d) receiving information with regard to an unprintable area included in a paper area in each of the multiple printers specified by said function (a); and

 (e) computing a printable area in the paper area, which is printable with any of the multiple printers, from the information of the respective
15 printers received by said function (d),

 wherein said function (c) comprises the function of:

 (c1) causing the plural divisions of the print data to be fit to the printable area computed in said step (e).

20 64. A computer readable recording medium in accordance with claim 63, wherein said function (c1) comprises the function of:

 correcting margins on each sheet of paper defined by the print data, based on the printable area computed by said function (e).

25 65. A computer readable recording medium in accordance with either one of claims 63 and 64, wherein said function (b) receives the information

from the printer drivers provided for the respective printers.

66. A computer program causing a computer to attain the functions of:

(a) specifying multiple printers as destinations of distribution;

5 (b) setting paper information with regard to paper used for printing;

and

(c) processing externally input print data based on the specification by
said function (a) and the setting by said function (b) and outputting plural
divisions of the print data, which satisfy the paper information, to the
10 multiple printers specified as the destinations of distribution,

wherein the plural divisions of the print data output by said function
(c) are supplied to the multiple printers via printer drivers provided for the
respective printers,

said computer program further causing the computer to attain the
15 functions of:

(d) receiving information with regard to an unprintable area included
in a paper area in each of the multiple printers specified by said function (a);
and

(e) computing a printable area in the paper area, which is printable
20 with any of the multiple printers, from the information of the respective
printers received by said function (d),

wherein said function (c) comprises the function of:

(c1) causing the plural divisions of the print data to be fit to the
printable area computed in said step (e).

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